

CLAIMS

1. An article comprising:
a tape including an adhesive side and a non-adhesive side, wherein the adhesive side is coated with a pressure-sensitive adhesive; and
a layer of retroreflective beads melted into the non-adhesive side of the tape.

2. The article of claim 1, wherein the tape is medical tape capable of being comfortably adhered to human skin.

3. The article of claim 1, wherein the layer of retroreflective beads is laminated into the non-adhesive side of the tape.

4. The article of claim 1, wherein the tape is medical tape having a foam backing.

5. The article of claim 1, wherein the tape is medical tape having a non-woven backing.

6. The article of claim 1, wherein the layer of retroreflective beads exhibits an initial reflective brightness prior to being subjected to abrasion cycles and a final reflective brightness after being subjected to a number of abrasion cycles, wherein the final reflective brightness is greater than seventy percent of the initial reflective brightness when the number of abrasion cycles is approximately 750.

7. The article claim 1, wherein the layer of retroreflective beads exhibits an initial reflective brightness prior to being subjected to abrasion cycles and a final reflective brightness after being subjected to a number of abrasion cycles, wherein the final reflective brightness is greater than ninety percent of the initial reflective brightness when the number of abrasion cycles is approximately 750.

8. The article claim 1, wherein the layer of retroreflective beads exhibits an initial reflective brightness prior to being subjected to abrasion cycles and a final reflective brightness after being subjected to a number of abrasion cycles, wherein the final

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14. The article of claim 10, wherein the layer of retroreflective beads is substantially held in place on the first side of the foam backing without the use of an additional adhesive or a resin.

15. A method comprising:

covering a non-adhesive side of a pressure-sensitive adhesive tape with retroreflective beads; and

applying heat and pressure to melt the retroreflective beads into the non-adhesive side of the pressure-sensitive adhesive tape.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the retroreflective beads comprise glass beads coated with aluminum, wherein each glass bead is coated with aluminum on approximately half of a glass bead surface area.

17. The method of claim 15, wherein the retroreflective beads are fully aluminum coated glass beads, the method further comprising etching aluminum from exposed surfaces of the retroreflective beads.

18. The method of claim 15, wherein applying heat and pressure comprises laminating the retroreflective beads onto the non-adhesive side of the pressure-sensitive adhesive tape.

19. A method comprising:

covering a first side of a foam backing with retroreflective beads; and
applying heat and pressure to melt the retroreflective beads into the first side of the foam backing.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein the retroreflective beads comprise glass beads coated with aluminum, wherein each glass bead is coated with aluminum on approximately half of a glass bead surface area.

21. The method of claim 19, wherein the retroreflective beads are fully aluminum coated glass beads, the method further comprising etching aluminum from exposed surfaces of the retroreflective beads.

22. The method of claim 19, wherein applying heat and pressure comprises laminating the retroreflective beads into the first side of the foam backing.

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23. An article comprising:

a foam backing including first and second sides;
a pressure-sensitive adhesive material covering the first side; and
a layer of retroreflective beads melted into the second side.

24. The article of claim 23, wherein the article is made by the process of:

coating the first side of the foam backing with the pressure-sensitive adhesive material;

covering the second side of the foam backing with retroreflective beads; and
applying heat and pressure to affix the retroreflective beads on the second side of the foam backing.

25. The article of claim 24, wherein applying heat and pressure comprises laminating the retroreflective beads onto the second side of the foam backing.

26. The article of claim 23, wherein the layer of retroreflective beads exhibits an initial reflective brightness prior to being subjected to abrasion cycles and a final reflective brightness after being subjected to a number of abrasion cycles, wherein the final reflective brightness is greater than seventy percent of the initial reflective brightness when the number of abrasion cycles is approximately 750.

27. The article of claim 23, wherein the layer of retroreflective beads exhibits an initial reflective brightness prior to being subjected to abrasion cycles and a final reflective brightness after being subjected to a number of abrasion cycles, wherein the final reflective brightness is greater than ninety percent of the initial reflective brightness when the number of abrasion cycles is approximately 750.

28. The article of claim 23, wherein the layer of retroreflective beads exhibits an initial reflective brightness prior to being subjected to abrasion cycles and a final reflective brightness after being subjected to a number of abrasion cycles, wherein the final reflective brightness is greater than ninety percent of the initial reflective brightness when the number of abrasion cycles is greater than 5000.

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29. The article of claim 23, wherein the layer of a layer of retroreflective beads is substantially held in place on the first side of the foam backing without the use of an adhesive or a resin.

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30. The article of claim 23, wherein the foam backing comprises a closed-cell cross-linked foam.

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31. An article comprising:

a medical tape capable of being comfortably adhered to human skin, the medical tape including an adhesive side and a non-adhesive side, wherein the adhesive side is coated with a pressure-sensitive adhesive; and

a layer of retroreflective beads laminated into the non-adhesive side of the medical tape without the use of an adhesive or resin, wherein the layer of retroreflective beads exhibits an initial reflective brightness prior to being subjected to abrasion cycles and a final reflective brightness after being subjected to a number of abrasion cycles, wherein the final reflective brightness is greater than seventy percent of the initial reflective brightness when the number of abrasion cycles is approximately 750.

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32. The article of claim 31, wherein the medical tape includes a foam backing.

33. The article claim 31, wherein the final reflective brightness is greater than ninety percent of the initial reflective brightness when the number of abrasion cycles is greater than 5000.

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